

Case 3523***Callidea lateralis* Guérin-Méneville, 1838 (currently *Lamprocoris lateralis*; Insecta, Heteroptera): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the widely used specific name *Lamprocoris lateralis* (Guérin-Méneville, 1838) for a species of jewel bug from Java by suppressing its objective senior synonym *Lamprocoris obtusus* (Westwood, 1837). The senior name *L. obtusus* has never been positively treated as different from *L. lateralis* but has been neglected in the literature, thereby justifying conservation of *Lamprocoris lateralis*.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Heteroptera; SCUTELLERIDAE; *Lamprocoris*; *Lamprocoris lateralis*; *Lamprocoris obtusus*; jewel bug; Java.

1. Westwood (1837, p. 16) described a new species of jewel bug, *Callidea obtusa* (Insecta, Heteroptera, SCUTELLERIDAE) from Java. This species was transferred to *Lamprocoris* Stål, 1865 by Stål (1873, p. 22).

2. Guérin-Méneville (1838, pp. 159, 160) described a new species, *Scutellera lateralis* from Java. This species was fixed as the type species of the genus *Lamprocoris* by subsequent monotypy by Stål (1866, p. 155).

3. Westwood's original description of *Callidea obtusa* is brief and inadequate. The type material has not been re-examined since its original description, therefore this species remained as of doubtful identity until recently. No authors have ever presented original data on this species, and there are only a few subsequent papers mentioning it, as follows. In their comprehensive works, Germar (1839, p. 119) and Atkinson (1887, p. 183) repeated Westwood's original description without any comment. Also without having seen any specimens, Vollenhoven (1863, p. 32) and Walker (1868, p. 510) considered that it was most probably only a variety of (i.e. conspecific with) *Callidea lateralis*. The survey of the pentatomoid species deposited in the Hope Collections at Oxford compiled by Distant (1900, p. 820) as well as the catalogues by Stål (1873, p. 22), Lethierry & Severin (1893, p. 28), Schouteden (1904, p. 28) and Kirkaldy (1909, p. 301) listed the species under *Lamprocoris* without comment. Finally, Tsai & Rédei (2009, p. 46) treated it as a species of doubtful identity, and mentioned that it was almost certainly conspecific with *L. lateralis*.

4. Guérin-Méneville's original description of *L. lateralis* is detailed, therefore subsequent authors readily recognised it during the last 170 years. We could trace 33 papers mentioning it in the immediately preceding 50 years. These works include identification books and taxonomical papers (Hsiao & Zheng, 1977, p. 62; Tsai & Rédei, 2009, p. 45), morphological studies (Kumar, 1965, pp. 45, 52; Fischer, 2001, plate 13; Tsai et al., 2004, p. 795); catalogues and checklists (Stichel, 1961, p. 730; Stichel, 1962, p. 210; Hua, 2000, p. 168; Göllner-Scheiding, 2006, p. 197), faunistic papers and zoogeographical analyses (Yang & Wu, 1981, p. 70; Zhang et al., 1983, p. 48; 1987, p. 118; Wu, 1984, p. 29; 1994, p. 63; Chen et al., 1985, p. 45; Jiang, 1985, p. 56; Zhang, 1986, p. 426; Zhang & Lin, 1988a, p. 84; 1988b, p. 75; Li et al., 1988, p. 138; Li et al., 1989, p. 38; Zheng & Jin, 1990, p. 141; Lin & Zhang, 1993, p. 113; Su et al., 1993, p. 281; Lin et al., 1999, p. 45; Liu & Wang, 2004, p. 174), and ecological studies (Hu, 1988, p. 195). The species is a minor pest of the oil-seed camellia, *Camellia oleifera* Abel and other *Camellia* spp. (THEACEAE) in China, and several authors referred to it in this context (Yang, 1962, p. 34; Qi et al., 1993, p. 18; Dai, 1997, p. 35; Zhang & Han, 1999, p. 85). The species is included even in popular field guides on insects, first of all targeting the public (Zhang, 2001, p. 72; Ho, 2003, p. 206). Several of the above papers provide redescriptions (Yang, 1962; Hsiao & Zheng, 1977; Lin & Zhang, 1993; Lin et al., 1999), habitus illustrations (Yang, 1962; Hsiao & Zheng, 1977; Lin & Zhang, 1993) and other drawings, photos of the adult (Hsiao & Zheng, 1977; Zhang, 2001; Ho, 2003; Tsai & Rédei, 2009) and immatures (Ho, 2003), and genitalia illustrations (Kumar, 1965; Fischer, 2001) of this biological species under the name *L. lateralis*. The species is widely distributed all over the continental South and Southeast Asia and the Malay Archipelago.

5. A lectotype has been designated for *L. obtusus* by Tsai & Rédei (2010, p. 42). It is a female deposited at the Hope Entomology Collections, Oxford University Museum, Oxford, Great Britain, bearing the following labels: 'Type' [circle with red margin, printed]; 'Java' [handwritten]; 'obtusa Hope' [handwritten, folded]; 'Lamprocoris \ obtusa \ Westw.' [handwritten]; 'TYPE. \ = = \ WESTW. (HOPE) \ C. Hemipt. 1837 \ Part I, page 16. \ Distant, P.Z.S. \ 1900, p. 807–825.' [with red frame, printed + handwritten]; 'TYPE HEM.: No 25 \ CALLIDEA \ OBTUSA \ WESTWOOD \ HOPE DEPT. OXFORD' [with black frame, handwritten + printed].

6. *Lamprocoris lateralis* was described from several specimens (cf. Guérin-Méneville, 1838, pp. 160–161). Together with other types of Guérin-Méneville described in the same work, the syntypes are supposed to be deposited in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France (cf. Göllner-Scheiding, 2006, p. 197). Unfortunately, no specimens could be found there. In accordance with the original description and subsequent works, we recognise it as representing the same biological species as the lectotype of *L. obtusus*. The lectotype of *L. obtusus* Westwood, 1837 has therefore been designated as the neotype of *L. lateralis* Guérin-Méneville, 1838 (Tsai & Rédei, 2010, p. 43). Hence, *L. lateralis* (Guérin-Méneville, 1838) is a junior objective synonym of *L. obtusus* (Westwood, 1837).

7. The senior name *L. obtusus* was greatly overlooked by subsequent authors and has never been positively treated as different from *L. lateralis*. On the other hand, there is extensive and substantial literature on this biological species under the junior name *L. lateralis*. This species is of economic importance, and it is rather common in

several parts of Southeast Asia. As a consequence, it appears in the agricultural literature and even in popular books on insects, i.e. references primarily targeting non-taxonomists, and it is invariably referred to under the junior name *L. lateralis*. Because of the above circumstances, the authors' opinion is that changing the name of this species simply because of adherence to the Principle of Priority is undesirable and would threaten stability (cf. Article 23.2 of the Code). The number and authorship of the works using the junior name meet the conditions of Article 23.9.1.2, however, their distribution encompasses a span of 12 years (between 1965 and 1977), and consequently the 'automatic' conservation of *L. lateralis* under Article 23.9.2 is not possible. Therefore, the case is brought to the Commission under the provisions of Article 23.9.3.

8. Since *L. lateralis* is a junior objective synonym of *L. obtusus*, there is no possibility that the two names may identify two different biological species, and the name *L. obtusus* cannot be needed in the future. Consequently, as using the senior name *L. obtusus* is undesirable, its suppression is considered by us as a more appropriate way to set it aside rather than giving the junior synonym *L. lateralis* nomenclatural precedence over it.

9. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the specific name *obtusa* Westwood, 1837, as published in the binomen *Callidea obtusa*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Lamprocoris* Stål, 1865 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent monotypy by Stål (1866) *Scutellera lateralis* Guérin-Méneville, 1838;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *lateralis* Guérin-Méneville, 1838, as published in the binomen *Scutellera lateralis*, the specific name of the type species of *Lamprocoris* Stål, 1865;
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *obtusa* Westwood, 1837, as published in the binomen *Callidea obtusa* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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